(b) what are the names of the Indian companies collaborating with them in this regard; and

(c) what is Government's present thinking about the working of these multinational companies?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Help to H.P. Government in boosting tea industry

2. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the role of the Tea Board in the programme to boost tea industry in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether Central Government have given any financial aid to the Himachal Pradesh Government for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the quantum thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL). (a) Several tea development Schemes of the Tea Board such as rejuvenation and replantation subsidy, interest subsidy on bank loan for irrigation, drainage and extension planting, supply of machinery and irrigation equipment under Hire Purchase Scheme and long-term loan under Replantation Finance Scheme, are in operation in Himachal Pradesh. Besides, a new scheme to provide subsidy for supply of irrigation equipment to the small growers had also been sanctioned by the Tea Board.

(b) and (c) So far Tea Board has provided a sum of Rs 38.96 lakhs as loan and Rs. 16.18 lakhs as subsidy.

Effect of bulk selling of castor oil in Holland

3. SHRI B K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state·

(a) whether it is a fact that the present practice of selling bulk quantities of castor oil in Holland has led to crash in prices and thereby adversely affecting the interests of India, and

(b) if so, what corrective steps are proposed for the future to protect national interests?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL)· (a) and (b) Rotterdam in Holland is a major trading centre for vegetable oils To minimise freight rates castor oil is shipped in bulk All exports are not through Rotterdam Price levels are governed by global supply and demand position The recent fall in price is due to higher production levels in India and Brazil

Net collection by National Savings Organisation

4 SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state·

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Savings Organisation (NSO) has been showing upward trend of net collections during the successive five-year plans since independence,

(b) whether it is also a fact that the National Savings Organisation has achieved the desired objectives,

(c) if the answers to parts (a) & (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons for proposed closure of National Savings Organisation; and

(d) whether Government propose to review the proposed closure of National

Savings Organisation and allow it to function along with State run savings organisations in view of its successful functioning?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The net small savings collections since the beginning of the First Five Year Plan have been showing an upward trend. This has been due to the combined efforts of the various agencies of the Central Government including the National Savings Organisation and the State Governments

(b) The National Savings Organisation has broadly achieved the objectives for which it was set up.

(c) and (d) There is, at present, no proposal to close the National Savings Organisation.

Level of expenditure on Savings Organisations under State Governments

5 SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) what is the comparative figures of expenditure on savings organisations by the States in comparison to Central Government's expenditure on National Savings Organisation, Statewise;

(b) what is the amount of expenditure borne by the Central Government on small savings organisations run by the States,

(c) what are reasons for Central expenditure on State-run small savings organisations when there is a National Savings Organisation under the Central Government,

(d) how the function of National Savings Organisation would be performed in case the organisation is wound up, and

(e) whether it is a fact that the pay scale and expenditure on officers of National Savings Organisation at District levels is far lower than their counterparts under the State Governments?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH). (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) The Central Government is not bearing any expenditure on the small savings organisations run by the States.

(d) There is no proposal to wind up the National Savings Organisation.

(e) There is no uniform pattern in the set up of the Savings Organisations run by the State Governments. A comparison with the district set up of the National Savings Organisation is not possible.

Representation against uniform policy for import of dates from Gulf countries

6. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have received any representations from the Amritsar Border Traders' Association, Amritsar regarding adopting a uniform policy for import of dates from Gulf countries; if so, the details thereof, and

(b) the decision taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL). (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A representation has been received from the Amritsar Border Traders' Association, Amritsar, requesting permission for import